

SECTION C — (3 × 10 = 30 marks)

Answer any THREE questions.

16. Discuss the significance of the discovery of the Indo-European family of languages and its impact on historical linguistic and cultural understanding. Include examples of languages within this family and mention key linguistic features they share.
17. Analyze the factors contributing to the growth of the English vocabulary from Old English to the present day, including examples of words adopted from other languages.
18. Evaluate the impact of Latin, Greek, and French on the development of the English language, providing specific examples of vocabulary and linguistic changes.
19. Compare and contrast American English with British English, focusing on linguistic evolution, vocabulary, spelling, and cultural significance.
20. Discuss the factors that have contributed to the rise of English as a global lingua franca and the implications of this dominance for non-English speaking cultures.

APRIL/MAY 2024

FEN42/CEN42 — HISTORY OF ENGLISH
LANGUAGE

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

1. What is the characteristic feature of English language syntax?
2. What is the significance of the Indo-European family of languages?
3. How has English vocabulary primarily grown?
4. Why is English spelling considered irregular?
5. What role do dictionaries play in English pronunciation?
6. What was a key factor in the growth of Standard English?
7. Name a foreign language that has significantly contributed to the English vocabulary.



8. What is one distinguishing feature of American English compared to British English?
9. What is an example of a word that has changed its meaning in English?
10. Why is English considered a global language?

SECTION B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

11. (a) Discuss two characteristic features of the English language and explain how they affect its use globally.

Or

- (b) Explain the significance of the Indo-European family of languages and give two examples of languages within this family besides English.

12. (a) Describe two major sources of growth in the English vocabulary since the Middle Ages.

Or

- (b) Provide two examples of words in English that have undergone a significant change in meaning and describe the changes.

13. (a) Describe how the printing press influenced the standardization of English spelling.

Or

- (b) How have dictionaries contributed to the understanding and standardization of English pronunciation?

14. (a) What factors contributed to the development and growth of Standard English in the late medieval and early modern periods?

Or

- (b) Explain how Latin and Greek have contributed to the English language, providing two examples for each.

15. (a) Describe two main differences between American and British English.

Or

- (b) Why has English become a global lingua franca, and what role does it play in international communication today?